

**FIRE FACT NO. 057 CHECKLIST(s) :**

Rev. 1/2003

**TITLE : CHILD CARE HOMES**

**CHECKLIST ITEM(s) :**

**REFERENCE(s) : K.S.A. 31-133**

**PAGE 1 of 4**

# FACT 057 CHILD CARE HOMES

The role of the Kansas State Fire Marshal is to insure that all providers of Child Care Homes are prepared in the event of a fire emergency. There are over 5,000 structure fires each year in Kansas. Over 70% of those fires and 75% of the fire deaths that result happen in homes. This is the reason of fire safety awareness. **BIG FIRES START SMALL.** In less than 4 minutes a small waste paper basket fire can spread through the average home, causing enough smoke to keep everyone inside from being able to get out safely. Smoke is the main killer in a fire because of the toxic gases that are released from the burning materials. Smoke will disable you before the flames ever reach you. In a fire, seconds count.

As a child care provider the Kansas State Fire Marshal expects the following from you:

- You accept legal responsibility for providing a fire safe home for everyone in your care by ensuring that they can be evacuated from your home to a safe place outside of the home in the event of a fire. (See Fire Fact 004).
- You must provide two different escape routes from all areas in your home where children are cared for, to a place of safety outside of your home. These exits must allow you and all other occupants to get out of your home within 4 minutes.

### Main Floor Exiting Requirements:

- a) One exit door must be easily walked to and lead directly to the outside.
- b) The second exit must allow you to walk or crawl directly to the outside.
- c) One exit may be a compliant escape window. (See FireFact 023).
- d) The exit path shall continue to ground level.

### Basement or Second Floor Exiting Requirements:

- e) If licensed **after** January 1, 2003 and using the basement; The second exit may be compliant stairs that leads to the main level, rescue/ventilation window (See FireFact 023) or a door that leads directly outside and continues to ground level. (See illustrations on pages three and four).
- f) If licensed **before** January 1, 2003 and using the second floor; The second exit may be compliant stairs that leads to the main level or a door that leads directly outside and continues to ground level with compliant stairs.
- g) Childcare cannot be located above the second floor.

**As the provider, you are expected to check that ALL escape routes are clear and usable every day.**



## **Kansas State Fire Marshal Prevention Division**

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**REFERENCE(s) : K.S.A. 31-133**

**PAGE 2 of 4**

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- You must install and maintain according to the manufacturer's instructions, working smoke detectors on every level of your home. (See FireFact 036).
  - a) Detectors shall be placed in the pathways leading directly to the outside.
  - b) Detectors shall be placed in each sleeping room used by the children in your care.
  - c) You must test each smoke detector monthly.
  - d) Detector testing shall be documented.
- "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery"! For battery operated smoke detectors, you must change your batteries in each smoke detector twice a year, approximately 6 months apart. We recommend that batteries are changed when your clocks are changed for daylight savings time.
- We recommend you replace all smoke detectors every ten years, including 10-year lithium battery smoke detectors.
- You must be sure that children can open every closet door from the inside at all times.
- You must contact your local fire department or building and zoning officials about any local requirements for Home Child Care providers and you must meet those requirements. Remember that your local emergency service providers are the ones who respond to your emergencies. They are your partners in protecting the lives of the children in your care.
- You must practice your emergency plan each month.
  - a) Practice and document a fire exit drill each month. (See FireFact 028).
  - b) Perform fire and tornado drills at different times of the day, regardless of the weather, so in an emergency you will be prepared to get everyone in your care outside to a place of safety.
  - c) Use the test button on your smoke detector to sound the alarm.
  - d) Be able to account for all those in your care at all times.
  - e) Keep anyone from re-entering the home or being injured by an outdoor hazard.
  - f) Identify all children in your care that might need special help getting out in case of an emergency. (See FireFact 029).
- In an actual emergency, always call the fire department from a neighbor's home after everyone in your care is out of your home. Then allow the trained emergency personnel to do their jobs.
- You must follow the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Child Care licensing and registration requirements to protect the children in your care from other hazards.

# Kansas State Fire Marshal Prevention Division

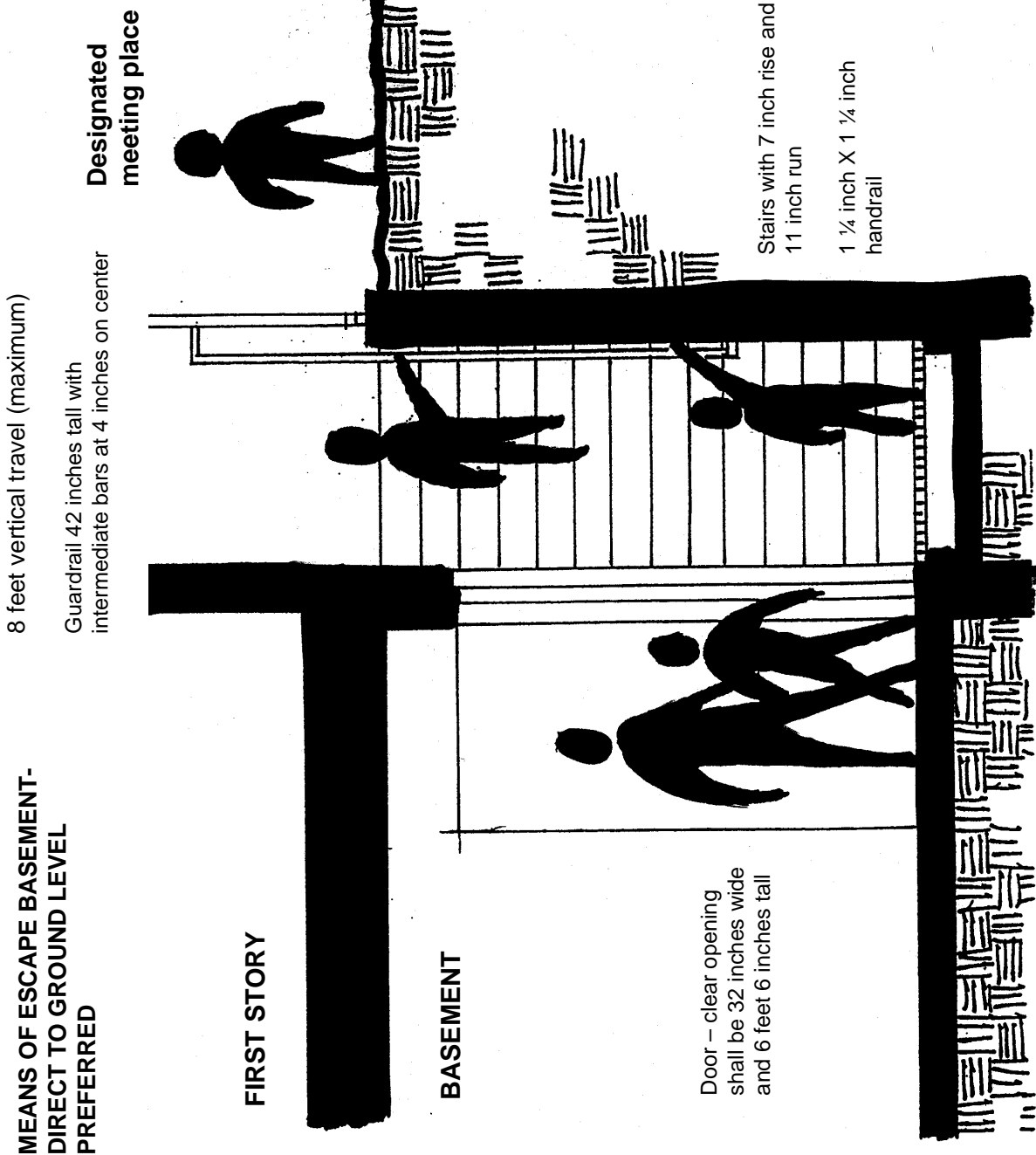
FIRE FACT NO. 057 CHECKLIST(s) :

TITLE : CHILD CARE HOMES

CHECKLIST ITEM(s) :

REFERENCE(s) : K.S.A. 31-133

PAGE 3 of 4



## Kansas State Fire Marshal Prevention Division

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**PAGE 4 of 4**

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The door pictured below is not approved as an acceptable exit from a basement. This type of door is subject to snow loads, falling debris, and being locked, blocked, or vandalized in some manner.

Children attempting to evacuate this lower level space may not be able to operate the locking arrangement and the door may be too heavy to push to initiate the spring assists.

Any approved exit from a basement shall lead directly to grade level. Any provisions for weather protection shall meet height and width requirements for a standard exit door. A person shall be able to walk up to the door operate the latching device and exit the building.

